

Indian Group to Picket Local Seller of "Custer's Revenge"

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Anyone awaiting the arrival this week of "Custer's Revenge," may have to penetrate a picket line to buy the controversial adult video game.

Supporters of the Native American Center announced Saturday they plan to carry their protest at 11 a.m. Monday to the doors of the Adult Toy Box, 1184 N MacArthur, where a shipment of 24 games is expected.

The game depicts an old, naked officer (Gen. Custer) eluding a hail of arrows in pursuit of a naked Indian woman, who succumbs as she is pressed against a stake.

"It sends out the message that it's OK to be sexist and racist;

that it's OK to rape," said Frances Wise, of the Native American Center.

"It hurts, and that hurt has turned to anger," Mrs. Wise said.

"Indian women were raped, mutilated, abused, forced off our land, robbed of our religion and our language now they're trying to rob us of our dignity," she said.

"I would have thought that the Battle of Little Big Horn and the troubles with George Armstrong Custer were over long ago," she said.

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Asked if more publicity about the game would promote, rather than curtail, its sale, Mrs. Wise said, "We're going to hurt, definitely.

Most people don't want anybody to know they go to these stores."

Mrs. Wise and Millie Giago, director of the Native American Center, shared their sentiments last week with Kevin Webber, manager of the Adult Toy Box.

"He whipped out his calculator and started figuring up how much money he'd lose if he didn't sell the games," Mrs. Wise said. "It's a sad thing in this country when people can hide behind First Amendment Rights to earn a dollar and exploit people," she said.

Rick Jones, assistant manager at the Adult Toy Box, confirmed Saturday that the video games would arrive this week.

"If they give us a lot of flak, we'll send them back," he said.

Customer orders for half the shipment have already been taken, he said.

"We don't really understand what this is all about," Jones said.



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"We don't find the game offensive."

American Multiple Industries of Northridge, Calif., announced a month ago that it had ceased its function as U.S. marketer of the game, which is made in Hong Kong.

On Saturday, Mrs. Wise accused the company of lying about its plans as a ruse to shore up the game's retail value as a collector's item.

Not so, said Stuart Kesten, AMI president. "We no longer market the game, and the manufacturer no longer makes it," he said Saturday in a telephone interview.

A number of distributors still have the games in stock, he said.

"We believe to this moment that it was not a depiction of anything offensive, and not a rape," Kesten said. "But we thought protests over it could have a negative effect on our other business."

Managers of Madame X, another adult game store that stocked the game, assured Indian representatives this week they would not reorder the game.

The Oklahoma City Council denounced "Custer's Revenge" last October as "distasteful" and "not in the best interests of the community," but its sale was not banned.

Mrs. Wise said she met in December with an assistant district attorney and an assistant city attorney, who told her they could not prosecute the game's sellers.

Last week, in reaction to indignation over "Custer's Revenge," the Oklahoma House unanimously passed a bill to extend Oklahoma's obscenity laws to cover adult video games.

The bill, proposed by Rep. Enoch Kelley Haney, D-Seminole, himself a Seminole Indian, is expected to be taken up by the Senate this week.

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